

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for context-sensitive searching of fields of a data repository using multiple levels of term expansion, comprising:

receiving, from a user, a relational database query containing a plurality of conditions, wherein at least one condition for searching at least one field of the data repository, wherein the at least one condition includes at least one base search term providing a keyword to search for in an unstructured text field of the relational database;

obtaining one or more parameters associated with the base search term, wherein the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a user-specified level of expansion and further include at least a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user;

obtaining, based at least in part on the user-specified level of expansion and the credential associated with the user and the role associated with the user, one or more expanded search terms;

prior to executing the relational database query, modifying the relational-database query to contain one or more additional conditions based on the one or more expanded search terms.

.2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a name of the at least one field.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a name of a table containing the at least one field.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein different one or more expanded search terms are obtained for the at least one base search term depending on the name of the at least one field.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for searching fields of a data repository using multiple levels of term expansion, comprising:

receiving, from a user, a relational database query containing a plurality of conditions, wherein at least one condition is a condition for searching at least one field of the data repository, wherein the at least one condition includes at least one base search term providing a keyword to search for in an unstructured text field of the relational database;

providing an interface allowing a user to specify a level of expansion associated with the base search term;

determining one or more parameters specifying at least a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user;

obtaining the level of expansion associated with the base search term;

obtaining, based on the base search term, the associated level of expansion, and the one or more parameters, one or more expanded search terms; and

prior to executing the relational database query, modifying the relational database query to contain one or more additional conditions, wherein each additional condition includes one of the including the one or more expanded search terms.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the base search term corresponds to an instance data value of the at least one field.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein obtaining one or more expanded search terms comprises selecting a set of expanded search terms from a plurality of

sets of expanded search terms, each set corresponding to a different level of expansion.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the number of expanded search terms in each set is dependent on the corresponding level of expansion.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for context-sensitive searching of fields of a data repository, comprising:

receiving, from a user, a relational database query containing at least one condition for searching at least one field of the data repository, wherein the at least one condition includes at least one base search term;

determining one or more parameters specifying at least a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user;

obtaining, based on the one or more parameters associated with the base search term, one or more expanded search terms; and

prior to executing the relational database query, modifying the relational database query to contain one or more conditions based on the one or more expanded search terms,

wherein the one or more parameters associated with the base search term further comprise at least a name of the at least one field and different one or more expanded search terms are obtained for the at least one base search term depending on the name of the at least one field.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a name of a table containing the at least one field.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a level of expansion.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the level of expansion is dependent on one or more other ones of the one or more parameters.

17-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of searching fields of a data repository using dynamic term expansion, comprising:

obtaining a relational database query containing at least one condition for searching at least one field of the data repository, wherein the at least one condition includes at least one base search term providing a keyword to search for in an unstructured text field of the relational database;

determining one or more parameters specifying at least a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user;

identifying, based on the base search term and the one or more parameters, a set of expanded terms associated with the base search term;

generating a pointer to the identified set of expanded search terms; and
prior to executing the relational database query, modifying the relational database query to contain one or more conditions based on one or more expanded search terms retrieved using the pointer.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising modifying the identified set of expanded search terms after generating the pointer.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the pointer comprises a directory path to a database.